



Kasia Bednarska's Italian greyhound Tali was mauled by a pit bull in Prospect Park.

Dog-beat-dog world

Vicious canine violence lands lady with big bill\$

By Natalie O'Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

The owner of a purebred Italian greyhound is on the hunt for the human companion of a canine bully that mangled her pup in Prospect Park — and she's demanding partial reimbursement for thousands in vet bills.

Kasia Bednarska took her pup, Tali, to the dog run near the boathouse at 5 pm on Monday only to encounter a

chocolate-brown pit bull who pounced on the skinnier dog and broke his left front leg.

Owner of the pit bull — whom Bednarska described as a 30-something blonde — fled, leaving Bednarska's 10-month-old pup whimpering in agony.

"His leg was just hanging there," she said. "I understand they're both animals, but you should have some control over

See **DOG** on page 12

SAVED!

'Offensive' crucifix will stay in Museum show

By Aaron Short
The Brooklyn Paper

The show will go on — ants and crucifix be damned.

The Brooklyn Museum will retain a controversial video featuring ants crawling on a crucifix as part of a larger show on American portrait art that opens on Nov. 18 — ignoring calls from the Brooklyn Diocese, and Republican politicians, to remove the video on the grounds that it will be "offensive to many peo-



The Brooklyn Museum is including David Wojnarowicz's controversial video, "A Fire in My Belly," in its new show, despite outrage from Catholics — and Republicans! — that the image of ants crawling on a crucifix is offensive.

Ratner sued over 'sham' jobs

By Daniel Bush
The Brooklyn Paper

Atlantic Yards developer Bruce Ratner set up a "sham" job-training program that ended up screwing workers out of promised union positions on his \$5-billion mega-project, a bombshell lawsuit charged on Tuesday.

The workers say that they were promised union membership and



Ratner Construction Update

Noriega, one of the plaintiffs. "What they did was wrong and misleading."

Noriega and six other plaintiffs are being represented by South Brooklyn Legal Services, which has long been involved in Atlantic Yards-related suits.

"The project developers ... blatantly violated many federal and state statutes designed to protect individuals from exploitation," said lawyer Molly Thomas-Jensen. "The project developers



Gus Santos of Windsor Terrace was surprised to learn that a crew of thieves had targeted his neighbor's brand new Honda on Thursday morning.

Tire thieves strike

Pro crew targets Brownstone Brooklyn

By Thomas Tracy
The Brooklyn Paper

Two Brownstone Brooklyn residents found their tireless cars propped on cinder blocks last Thursday morning, and cops say the rim thefts are the latest in a trend that is sweeping through tonier neighborhoods.

"We've been hit pretty regularly for about two months, get-

Park's lake covered in gross scum

By Natalie O'Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

The Parks Department spent much of the past three days denying reports that a deadly green bacteria has overwhelmed the Prospect Park lake — but then revealed this week that biologists are testing the scum to determine the full extent



SHAME

this lake."

Scientists have not yet confirmed the strand of scum, which was first reported by our sister publication, the New York Post. But the men and women in the white jackets admitted that it might be cyanobacteria, a blue-green algae that can make humans sick and

kill animals.

That's what worries Bahlman, who discovered the corpse of a rabbit-sized creature covered in the gunk.

"A mammal doesn't die in a body of water unless it's sick," he said. "It's very suspicious."

Since May, the pea soup-colored substance has grown



Prospect Park watchdogs think this thick lake scum is evidence of an ecological disaster.

Where's BeeBop?

Missing cat a Facebook sensation

By Kate Briquet
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn Heights residents and cat ladies of the Internet want to know: Where is BeeBop?

The skittish tuxedo cat ran away from his home on Columbia Place in June, but owner Cathy Sheehan and her 1,300 Facebook supporters aren't giving up



BeeBop, the feisty cat from Brooklyn Heights that went missing over Fourth of July weekend.

NAKED RAMPAGE

Here's the skinny on Ridge's nude avenger

By Dan MacLeod
The Brooklyn Paper

A deranged woman ransacked a Chinese restaurant, stripped down to her birthday suit, and literally stopped traffic on Third Avenue last Thursday, drawing hundreds

WE HAVE PHOTOS!
SEE PAGE 13

when the then-fully clothed 60-year-old woman — whose identity was not released — entered Dragon China between 79th and 80th streets and demanded free food after seeing the word "free" on the take-out menu.

See **NAKED** on page 13



Down, boy

World hot dog eating-champion Joey Chestnut gets some competition from Chloe, who won top prize in the "hottest dog" contest at the new PetSmart in Carroll Gardens.

'Occupiers' fan out across boro

By Eli Rosenberg
The Brooklyn Paper

The Occupy Wall Street movement finally took on a Brooklyn accent on Saturday, with protesters decrying "crony capitalism" at several controversial sites — rallying most heatedly at a spot that many call the ultimate symbol of corporate control of democracy, the Atlantic Yards megadevelopment.

Occupy Brooklyn protesters started their march at the JP Morgan Chase complex in Downtown's Metrotech Center, com-



OCCUPATION GETS ITS OWN ALE
SEE PAGE 5



Protesters hit several Downtown sites on Saturday.

from skeletal, half-built Barclays Center, the under-construction, 19,000-seat basketball arena.

Goldstein and others — who lost their years-long battle with Ratner and the state — continue to complain that the developer used his connections in government to buy the air rights for his proposed mega-development from the Metropolitan Transportation

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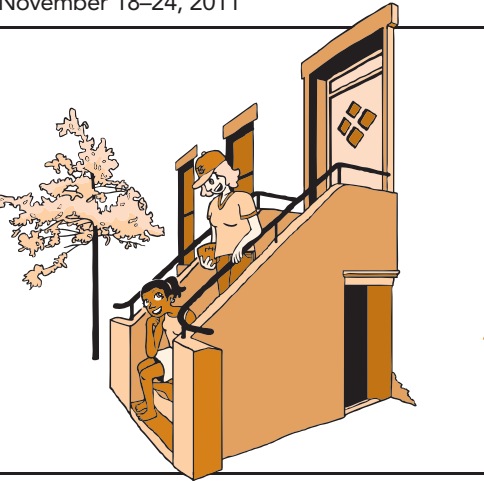


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THE

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NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

PARK SLOPE



It's this kind of trash that is fueling the BID buzz.

Seventh cents

Merchants want new tax to keep the avenue clean

By Natalie O'Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

Seventh Avenue business owners are moving ahead with a plan to levy a new tax to clean up Park Slope's main shopping strip after city officials failed to properly do the job. Dozens of business owners will set up a Business Improvement District board this week — the first step in creating such a district to impose a tax on building owners to supplement declining city services such as trash pick-ups and, possibly, security. After the board is formed, half of all building owners along a yet-to-be determined geographical stretch between Flatbush and Prospect avenues must agree to a tax levy of roughly \$300 per storefront per year. Those who object can fill out a city form and file it with the city clerk, but few business owners in Park Slope are expected to do so. "There's a lot to gain from the pooling of resources and the amount of money it generates," said Mitch Szpicek of the Park Slope Chamber of Commerce, which will meet to form the BID board. The push comes five months after elected officials chose not to renew a contract with a non-profit that hires homeless men to collect street trash. Critics say that the existence of such a program revealed the dirty secret of city services: their quality is declining. Indeed, trash collection has not proven to be frequent enough to keep the restaurant- and retail-lined street clean — and trashcans have been overflowing. Since business improvement districts became legal in the early 1980s, more than five dozen BIDs have been created in middle- to upper-middle-class neighborhoods all over the city. They generate \$100 million in supplemental taxes — money that is not subject to the same public review as other taxes. Once a BID is formed, owners of all the 350 storefronts along Seventh Avenue in Park Slope would need to pay the tax — and some merchants claim they don't get enough bang for their buck. But Fifth Avenue — which became a more popular shopping destination after the BID was formed — is an example of the way Seventh Avenue could benefit, said Ken Freeman, president of the Park Slope Civic Council. "Some building owners think, 'More tax? What I am I getting for that?'" he said. "But we desperately need it — city services aren't always enough."

COLUMBIA STREET

So long, Sokol Bros.

Old furniture store sells to developer

By Natalie O'Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

The owner of a sprawling, family-owned furniture store has closed shop after 62 years in the Columbia Waterfront District — leaving a Madison Avenue-based real estate company in charge of the half-block-sized, multi-million-dollar slab of real estate. Michael Sokol — who ran Sokol Brothers Furniture on the Columbia Street between President and Carroll streets — sold the building last

week, ditching the sofa-slinging trade to "retire and do a little world traveling." "It's just time to go," he said, noting he has watched the rapidly gentrifying area morph from nice into gritty — and then back again. Sokol sold the property to Columbia Street Development LLC, a Manhattan-based real-estate investment company for \$3.3 million on



Changing Brooklyn

Oct. 31. The sale is one hint that the neighborhood's slow gentrification is beginning to yield glitzier retail shops and housing. Sokol's father opened the store — which showcased antique rocking chairs, cozy couches and sleek wooden desks — the year that the



Michael Sokol has closed his Sokol Bros. Furniture store on Columbia Street. It will become a high-end condo.

color television was invented and not long after Brooklyn-Queens Expressway sprouted a couple blocks away.

Sokol took over the business in the mid-1970s — before the artists moved in, before the brownstoners took

over, before restaurants popped up and before IKEA opened a mile away. His business stayed strong even as trendy shops opened and closed around him, in part because his store felt like a throwback to another era with friendly faces. "It was a ma and pa institution," said nearby resident Brian McCormick. Officials at Columbia Street Development did not return calls, but McCormick said he hoped that the new owners fill the space with a "destination" spot to drive folks to the neighborhood, which has also recently seen a surge in creative types. "It's comforting to see storefronts that you're used to," he said. "But this is part of another wave."

WILLIAMSBURG

Empty 'Nest' no more!

Beloved dive bar reopens on Bedford Avenue

By Aaron Short
The Brooklyn Paper

Williamsburg's beloved Bedford Avenue dive bar, Turkey's Nest, reopened last week with a clean bill of health after inspectors closed shut it down on Halloween. "We passed our inspection!" said Nest co-owner Dee Ehresman. "Come on over!" The 100-year-old watering hole, known for inexpensive beers and margaritas strong enough to turn boys into men, failed an inspection after mice droppings and poorly installed plumbing were allegedly found. The Department of Health issued a \$2,000 fine and closed the bar, forcing it to lose thousands of dollars more during the New York City Marathon, typically one of its busiest days of the year. But the bar's crack staff worked around the clock for the next nine days to re-



RAISE A GLASS: Anna Feagan and Drew Willard are clearly happy that the Turkey's Nest bar, on Bedford Avenue, has reopened.

move pipes and wiring, caulk the walls, give the floors an aggressive wipe-down, and take out coin-operated machines that attracted the alleged mice. It's not exactly spotless — but neighborhood drinkers are relieved to have their old joint back.

"I tried to go here four times over the past week — it was shuttered," said Williamsburg resident Drew Millard, one of the first people to get a drink when the Nest reopened last Wednesday. With the margarita machine still out, the crowd mostly stuck with 32-ounce

Styrofoam cups of Budweiser — which cost only \$4. But it isn't just the cheap drinks that attract neighborhood regulars who say the bar is "like family." "One time, I saw one guy puke in the bathroom, he came out with his pants down to his ankles — and then he said, 'Where's my next drink?'" said Nest patron Roger Tenfour. Even neighborhood celebrities, including Councilman Steve Levin (D-Williamsburg) and Brooklyn Kickball League Commissioner Kevin Dailey visited the bar during its grand reopening. "This place is a cornerstone of the neighborhood and it should remain open as long as Brooklyn itself," said Dailey. "People took it for granted, but hopefully they won't anymore, and now they'll be thankful for it." Turkey's Nest [94 Bedford Ave. at N. 12th Street in Williamsburg, (718) 384-9774].

WINDSOR TERRACE

Subway riders get F-d again

By Colin Mixson
The Brooklyn Paper

Thousands of F- and G-line commuters in Windsor Terrace found new way to get home starting on Monday when some service was eliminated to the 15th Street and Fort Hamilton Parkway stations. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority has temporarily eliminated Coney Island- and Church Avenue-bound service at the stations, affecting about 11,000 commuters per day. The service cuts will allow MTA contractors to replace tracks, signals and switches on the aging line.



Big changes coming for Windsor Terrace users of the G and F trains.

The outbound F and G trains will skip the stations on the express track to Church Avenue. To ac-

cess the skipped stations, customers will have to double-back. The outage will last until the spring. "It's an inconvenience to people and it's definitely going to affect peoples quality of life," said Gary Reilly, a member of the Community Board 6 Transportation Committee. "If the MTA had some better resources, they could provide a shuttle bus to replace the services that were lost." The work is part of the \$275.5-million restoration of the 80-year-old Culver Viaduct, an engineering marvel that carries the el-

evated F and G lines between Fourth Avenue and Carroll Street. That work includes a complete shutdown of the line in both directions this weekend and next — though shuttle buses will be provided. Brownstone Brooklynites are used to regular inconvenience — and are, generally, OK with it, Reilly said. "This project needs to get done," he said. "When all is said and done, not only will it be safer, but with modernized tracks and signalling, it will ultimately provide the infrastructure for a possible return of express service in the future."

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Vicious cyclist-on-cyclist crime

90TH PRECINCT

Southside–Bushwick
Bicycle thief

A perp on a black bicycle robbed another cyclist at the foot of the Williamsburg Bridge near Broadway on Nov. 7.

The cyclist told police that she was riding down the bike path toward Driggs Avenue at 12:25 am when the perp rode up to her, pushed her to the ground, and stated, “Stop, don’t scream, give me your bag.”

She struggled with the perp, but he gave up and made a getaway on the ramp toward Manhattan on his own bike.

iStolen

A thief snatched an iPhone from a woman on the J train at Marcy Avenue on Nov. 9.

The victim told police that she was surfing the web on her phone at 10:30 am when the perp grabbed her phone from her hands and scratched her face. He ran off the train into the station and down to Broadway. — **Aaron Short**

84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights–DUMBO–Boerum Hill–Downtown
iPhone stolen

Two thieves stole a woman’s cellphone on Red Cross Place on Nov. 9. The victim said she was near Adams Street at 10 pm when the thieves punched her in the face and grabbed the phone.

Chain ganged

Three thieves stole a \$1,400 Gucci necklace at the Borough Hall subway station on Nov. 1.

The victim said that he was inside the Joralemon Street station at 6:50 pm when one of the men yanked the chain from his neck.

— **Daniel Bush**

76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens–Cobble Hill–Red Hook
Hook renegades

Gunmen robbed a 21-year-old in Coffey Park on Nov. 12 — taking thousands of dollars in camera equipment.

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at **BrooklynPaper.com/blotter**

The victim was on the Richards Street side of the park at 1:30 pm when the thieves — sporting red and black scarves to cover their ugly pugs — approached, flashed their weapon and ran off with a \$1,400 camera and a \$2,500 camera lens.

iPhone jack
A thief knocked down and robbed a 37-year-old man for his iPhone during a furious Nov. 7 exchange on Warren Street. The victim was between Henry and Clinton streets at 8:30 pm when the thug barreled into him — knocking the smartphone out of his prey’s hand.

— **Thomas Tracy**

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene–Clinton Hill
Subway slash

Two thugs attacked a man on a Manhattan-bound C train on Nov. 12 — sending the straphanger to the hospital for staples and stitches.

The 28-year-old victim told cops that the train was near the Clinton-Washington station at 11:45 pm when one of the goons approached him and yelled, “I’m gonna cut this n—!”

The brute slashed his head, nose and hands with a box-cutter and the other punched him in the face.

Cops say that the derelict duo — both described as 25-years-old and about 6-foot-1 — may have been members of the Crips.

The victim was transported to Brooklyn Hospital.

Apple pry

Three thieves plucked a woman’s iPhone in the Clinton-Washington G train station on Nov. 7.

The victim told police that she was on the subway platform at 4 pm when one of the strangers held her in a bear hug and another rustled through her pockets. They yanked her mobile and fled into a getaway car.

Cops arrested 18- and 33-year-old suspects, but didn’t retrieve the Jobsian device.

Brutal stabbing

A band of marauders stabbed a man in the neck

and ribs on Myrtle Avenue on Nov. 7 when he tried to retrieve a stolen bicycle.

The victim told police that he was near Washington Avenue at 6:15 pm when the thugs stabbed him multiple times on his upper body — sending him to Brooklyn Hospital for stitches.

Jumped the gun

A trio of young bandits attacked two teens on S. Oxford Street on Nov. 7 — simulating a pistol and fleeing with a cellphone.

The victims told police that they were near Hanson Place at 6:15 pm when the devious crew surrounded them. One of them asked, “What are you doing?” and another barked, “I have a gun. Give me what you got!”

They fled with a Samsung phone. Police are seeking 17- and 18-year-old suspects.

Laptop swipe

Some goon lifted a laptop and camera from a Vanderbilt Avenue contractor on Nov. 4.

An employee told police that he left the building near Fulton Street for the weekend at 5 pm. When he returned days later, the front door was busted open and a \$1,500 Dell computer was gone.

— **Kate Briquetelet**

78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope
Flatbush

Thieves ambushed a woman on Flatbush Avenue on Nov. 10 — but got only clothes.

The 55-year-old victim said she was between Prospect Place and St. Marks Avenue at around 7:30 pm when three men approached from behind, and one grabbed her purse.

The trio of thugs got away only to discover that the handbag contained only clothes, valued at \$0 by police.

Inside job

A brazen thief took cash from a 14th Street apartment on Nov. 11, striking while the resident was in the next room.

The victim told cops that he was in his office inside the apartment between Third and

Fourth avenues at around 9:30 pm when he heard someone inside the unit.

He went to investigate, but the man exited through the front door, \$80 in ill-gotten funds in his possession.

Cash carry

A thief got close to \$10,000 and plenty of high-tech goodies after breaking into a Carroll Street home overnight on Nov. 8.

The victim told cops that she left the house, which is between Third and Fourth avenues, at around 7:30 pm, and returned just after midnight to find that a thief had entered through a window.

Closer inspection revealed that he had taken \$9,000, assorted jewelry plus three computers and a digital camera.

— **Gersh Kuntzman**

94TH PRECINCT

Greenpoint–Northside
iSnatch

A thief on a bicycle stole a woman’s iPhone on Roebling Street on Nov. 9.

The victim told the police that she was near N. Fifth Street at 6:45 pm when the perp rode up behind her, snatched her phone from her hand, and fled.

Purse threat

A thief stole a woman’s purse on Nov. 7 on Kent Ave.

The victim told police that she was near N. Fourth Street at 11:05 am when the perp approached her and said, “Give me your purse!”

The victim complied, and the thief ran away.

— **Aaron Short**

68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights

Chain of fools

A mugger swiped a pricey diamond and gold chain off a woman’s neck on 13th Avenue on Nov. 9.

The victim told cops that she was between 70th and 71st streets at 2:45 pm when the perp, who had been following her, snatched the diamond-encrusted, \$5,000 chain, then ran down 71st Street.

Clubbed!

Thieves busted into a 62nd Street Norwegian sporting club on Nov. 10 and made off with \$100 from the register.

The owner told cops that employees closed the club between Eighth and Ninth avenues at around 4 am. When he returned five hours later, he discovered that the air conditioner had been pushed in, and cash was missing from the register.

— **Dan MacLeod**

77TH PRECINCT

Prospect Heights
i-Had

A jerk stole an iPad from a bar on Vanderbilt Avenue on Nov. 12.

The 23-year-old victim told cops that she left the so-called “God tablet” on a table at Plan B, between Prospect and Sterling places at 12:30 am — when the perp grabbed the shiny device and fled.

Fendi bender

A thief broke into a clothing store on Vanderbilt Avenue on Nov. 14.

The victim told cops that the jerk stole \$800 worth of merchandise from the store between Prospect Place and St. Marks Avenue, including a gold belt and a Fendi bag around 3:30 pm.

— **Eli Rosenberg**

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Drinking the revolution

Sixpoint hops on the ‘Occupy’ bandwagon with new ale

By Eli Rosenberg
The Brooklyn Paper

The revolution will be brewed. Sixpoint brewery in Red Hook has created “Occupation Ale” — and the hoppy attempt to capitalize on the Occupy Wall Street movement is flying off the shelves. “We’ve been selling it like hot-cakes,” said Matt Barclay, a manager at Bierkraft on Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, which has temporarily sold out of the stuff. The new beer, which was first reported by Brokelyn, a website, is certainly not Sixpoint’s first attempt to ferment a revolution.

In 2008, the company marketed a “Hop Obama” ale — named for then-candidate Barack Obama — but pulled it from the shelves after the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms sent a threatening letter. But Barclay believes that the brewery has now recycled Hop Obama as Occupation Ale. “It’s the same beer,” said Barclay. Sixpoint denied the allegation, despite its promise to bring back the beer under a different name. The company also insisted that the Occupation Ale was not a formal endorsement of Occupy Wall Street.

“Our company is not committed to any of the ideals of Occupy Wall Street other than the virtue of non-violent protest,” said Shane Welch, the company’s president. Representatives from the anti-capitalist movement were critical of the latest attempt at merchandising their brand. “Whenever there’s legitimate chance to make reform, some people see a chance to make some money,” said Bill Csapo, an Occupy Wall Street organizer. “The branding of an ideal is not a very good idea — it has a way of diffusing movements. I don’t think that anybody in the or-

ganization would approve of it being turned into an artisan ale.” So there’s nothing truly revolutionary about a \$5 pint of beer. “No sir, I do not believe so,” said Csapo. “I think that’s pretty much business as usual.” The good news is that Sixpoint’s Occupation Ale does differ from its namesake in one important way: it does not taste like wet socks and reek of long nights in a drippy tent with six unwashed frat boys from Haverford. “It’s actually bright and fresh tasting,” said Barclay. “It’s a good beer.”

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OWS

Continued from page 1
with hard facts about the economic injustice they believe is rife in the borough. Subsidies and sweetheart deals were the main theme of the day. At the JP Morgan building, Occupy Brooklyn protesters claimed that the bank had received \$237 million in tax breaks after promising to create 5,000 local jobs. Only 1,800 were created, protesters said, though the bank says it is close to 2,500 — the number of jobs it is now required to create under a 2004 rewritten tax deal. “Banks laid off tons of workers — and still got to keep all that money,” yelled a protester as the group stopped in front of the bank. “That ain’t right!” At a stop in front of the former Albee Square Mall on Fulton Street, one protester got on the “human mic” and blasted another developer, Joe Sitt, who bought the mall in 2001 and flipped it only a few years later. “He bought this property for \$20 million and then sold it for \$120 million,” the leader said, overestimating Sitt’s eventual big windfall by \$20 million. “It was the city that allowed this property to be so valuable through [the controversial Downtown Brooklyn Plan] re-zoning and ... more than 100 jobs and 30 businesses were evicted with no relocation assistance.” The new developers of the project, a 70-story proposed tower called CityPoint, also got a \$20-million federal subsidy.



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(718) 260-2500 The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings November 18–24, 2011

Spirit in the sky

A steel shed in Williamsburg is Brooklyn's latest craft distillery

By Aaron Short
The Brooklyn Paper

The spirit is risen — and now you can taste it.

The gin has begun to flow at the New York Distilling Company in Williamsburg this week — pleasing cocktail nerds and gin lovers throughout the city.

Former Brooklyn Brewery co-founder Tom Potter, who helped turn a fledgling craft brewer into one of the 20 largest beer makers in the country, joined former Slow Food USA chairman Allen Katz to build a gin and whiskey distillery from scratch in foodie Brooklyn.

They found a bare bones corrugated steel shed on Leonard Street last year whose renovations left them neither shaken nor stirred.

"Before we got here the building had no water, sewers, plumbing, gas, and electricity — it was exactly what we wanted," said Potter. "Today, this is one of the best laid-out distilleries in the East Coast."

On Wednesday, Potter and Katz began distilling the first batch of gin in a hand-hammered copper still imported from Germany.

It takes about eight hours to make drinkable gin in the warehouse's stills — but it can take as long as a week for the flavors of the mature gin to come together. And rye whiskey can age as long as six months to two years.

"The key behind distilling is that the alcoholic vapors come into contact with the copper, which mellows its taste," said Potter.

This year, Potter and Katz are focused on churning out two types of gin: "Perry's Tot," a 114-proof juniper juggernaut with a touch of wild honey that stands up to bold ingredients in mixed drinks; and "Dorothy Parker," a fruitier 85-proof gin that has hints of lemon, orange, cardamom, hibiscus and elderberry flavors. Each bottle should cost about \$34.

Neighborhood mixologists are already salivating.

"We get excited about overproof spirit — they're great to work with in our drinks," said Dram's Tom Chadwick. "There isn't really much 114-proof gin on the market. I can't wait to try it."

And just after Thanksgiving the distillery's bar, The Shanty, will offer both gins in an array of classic and experimental cocktails.

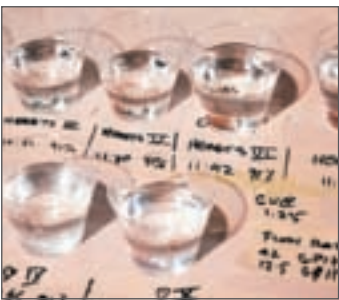
Shanty manager Nate Dumas will be serving up martinis, sazeracs, gin and tonics, and rye drinks — using housemade gins and those

from other distilleries from Brooklyn and beyond so you can perform your own taste test.

But Dumas prefers the stronger stuff if you ask him.

"I want things to be upward of 50-percent alcohol; if you use 40 percent, it can taste watered down or insipid when you mix ingredients," said Dumas. "But if you use a stronger proof, it stands up to the shaking and stirring."

Now that's the can-do spirit! The Shanty Bar and the New York Distilling Company [405 Leonard St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 473-2955]. For info, visit www.nydistilling.com.



Drink it in: (Clockwise from top) Nate Dumas and New York Distilling Company co-owner Tom Potter will make two kinds of gin at their shiny new Williamsburg facility. The big still is German made and gorgeous — but what comes out of it is even better. Afterwards, only the best of the booze is bottled.



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

That's the spirit

So what, old chap, is gin? Simply put, gin, like all alcoholic beverages, is boiled yeast excrement.

Gin generally starts out as wheat, which is ground up, mixed with water and heated to release the sugar. That's where the yeast comes in — it digests all the sugar and poops out alcohol at about the strength of beer.

That brew is flavored with juniper berries and then boiled. The

resulting steam recondenses as a booze that's 40- to 50-percent alcohol.

Juniper is essential, but gin makers typically add in all manner of "botanicals," including orange peel, anise, and other herbals to flavor the resulting distillate.

New York Distilling Company will use cardamom, orange, lemon, hibiscus, and elderberry as botanicals to complement the distinctive juniper.

— Aaron Short

THEATER

Hi, 'Five'!

Get ready to party like it's 1599! Shakespeare wrote four plays in that productive year — and the Irondale Ensemble Project will stage them all during its two-year "1599 Project," starting with "Henry V" on Nov. 22.



Photo by Gerry Goodstein

The other plays — "Julius Caesar," "As You Like It," and "Hamlet" — are all good, of course, but "Henry V" is especially timely, even 400 years later.

"Henry V" focuses on the effects of war on warriors and leaders," explained Irondale Executive Director Terry Greiss, who will also act in the show. "We are living in a very politically fervent time, and there are many analogies to be made with these productions."

"Henry V" at Irondale Ensemble Project [85 S. Oxford St. between Lafayette Avenue and Hanson Place in Fort Greene, (718) 488-9233]. Nov. 22-Dec. 10 (no show on Thanksgiving). \$35 (\$10 for Nov. 22 and Nov. 23 shows). For info, visit www.irondale.org.

— Juliet Linderman

EVENT

Down under

Want to explore the depths of the sewer system, abandoned subway tunnels or a condemned mental institution — without getting dirty, injured, or arrested?

Head to Union Docs in Williamsburg on Nov. 20 for a multi-media presentation on — you guessed it! — the geography and history of New York's hidden treasures.

"New York is endlessly fascinating to explore," said photographer and documentarian Nathan Kensinger, who has documented his own five-borough adventures in photo essays that he will screen at the event. "There are so many layers and secrets; you could explore for decades — a whole lifetime — and still not know it all."

The discussion will also feature four "street historians": writer Kevin Walsh, who runs the website, Forgotten NY; film location scout Nick Carr; co-founder of historical tour company Urban Oyster, Cindy Vanden Bosch; and Moses Gates, who is currently climbing every bridge, visiting every abandoned subway station and walking all 2,217 census tracts in the city.

"Block by Block: New York Street Histories" at Union Docs [322 Union Ave. between Maujer and Ten Eyck streets in Williamsburg, (718) 395-7902]. Nov. 20, 7 pm, \$9 suggested donation. For info, visit www.uniondocs.org.

— Juliet Linderman



Photo by Aaron Short

CULTURE

Art pumping

Forget the gym! This weekend, work up a sweat at a Boerum Hill art gallery.

Kiwi Sweat, an aerobics program that offers fitness classes in unusual locations, is taking over Invisible Dog on Bergen Street from Nov. 17–20.

It's part normal exercise class — with 40 spinning bikes — and part adventure.

"We're giving people a chance to discover new parts of the city and get out of their comfort zone," said Alicia Thomas, one of the program's founders. "So many times we get stuck in our own routines. This makes it an event rather than a boring workout."

If Crunch or Equinox isn't your scene, try out these pay-per-class gatherings — in locations that are kept secret until a few weeks before the workouts begin.

Thomas and her partner, Pam Graf, are always on the lookout for inspiring spaces in Brooklyn to host their beginner and expert indoor cycling classes.

They've already set up in a DUMBO warehouse and at Chelsea Market in Manhattan, where they held a "midnight ride" replete with explicit, raunchy jams.

"We don't lean on the Top 40," Graf said. "We're pushing the envelope."

Kiwi Sweat at Invisible Dog [51 Bergen St. between Smith and Court streets in Boerum Hill, (646) 494-7905]. Nov. 17–20. Classes are \$27 (\$20 if you bring a friend). For info, visit www.kiwisweat.com.

— Kate Briquette



Photo by Kate Briquette

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY

November 18

Poet knows it

Park Slope's own Tina Chang — aka the poet laureate! — will celebrate the release of her first book since being named the boro bard last year — with a big party. The book, "Of Gods and Strangers," is about 9-11 — but, hey, you need poets to help us make sense of big things like that.

7 pm. Tina Chang reads from "Of Gods and Strangers" at 61 Local [61 Bergen St. between Boerum Place and Smith Street in Boerum Hill (347) 763-6624]. For info visit www.tinachang.com.

SATURDAY

November 19

Cross check

Check out the Brooklyn Museum's new exhibit, "Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture," which will feature artist David Wojnarowicz's video depicting ants crawling over Jesus on a crucifix — a piece that was censored in Washington last year. Show them a little love by paying the new \$12 entry fee (suggested!) and defending artistic freedom.

All day. Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture" at the Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000]. For info, visit www.brooklynmuseum.org.

SUNDAY

November 20

Pie in the sky

Pie lovers rejoice — the five-slices-for-\$20 Bay Ridge pie social is back. For the second year in a row, a do-gooding treat-makers Justin Brannan and Leigh Jewel Holliday will host their crucial lead-in to Thanksgiving — and all the money goes to the help kids with developmental disabilities. Ah, the win-win situation.

1 pm. Bay Ridge Pie Social at the Art Room [8710 Third Ave. between 87th and 88th streets in Bay Ridge, (347) 560-6572]. Admission, \$20 for five slices (\$5 if you bring two pies). To sign up, e-mail bayridgepie@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY

November 23

The good 'ol days

There's no better way to get ready for the boredom of a full day with your family than to bust loose with the Bell House's annual "Party Like It's 1999" party. The usual suspects will be on hand — '90s music and our editor's desire that the calendar still read the 20th century. He was great back then.

9 pm. "Party Like It's 1999" at the Bell House [149 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510]. Free. For info, visit www.thebellhouse-ny.com.

SATURDAY

November 26

Rabbit run

We've hunted for herbs, salad greens and mushrooms with the legendary "Wildman" Steve Brill, but now he's leading a foraging tour in Marine Park for that most-elusive of flora: wild carrots. Yes, you may not realize it, but wild carrots are to Brooklyn what tobaccos is to North Carolina — except it won't kill us all!

11:45 am. Wild-Carrot Hunt with "Wildman" Steve Brill (meet at Avenue U and Burnett Street in Marine Park). Call (914) 835-2153 to make a reservation.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, NOV. 18

ELDER SEMINAR: For seniors, families, caregivers and healthcare professionals. Key note speaker is Judith Grimaldi, Esq. RSVP required. Free. 1:30–6 pm. Long Island College Hospital [339 Hicks St. at Atlantic Avenue in Cobble Hill, (718) 780-2768].

DANCE-OFF FOR BROOKLYN: Six community leaders will dance for underserved youth in Brooklyn. \$50 (VIP tickets \$100). 5:30 pm. Kumble Theater at Long Island University [DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 488-1624]. www.brooklyn.liu.edu/KumbleTheater.

READING, TINA CHANG: Author of "Of Gods and Strangers," a new poetry collection. Free. 7 pm. 61 Local [61 Bergen St. between Smith and Court streets in Cobble Hill, 61local.com].

MUSIC, BENEFIT CONCERT WITH ORGANIST STEPHEN THARP: \$25. 7:30 pm. Grace Church [254 Hicks St. between Joralemon Street and Grace Court in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 624-1850]. www.olbrooklyn.org.

MUSIC, 357 LOVER, BIKINI CARWASH, DAVE GODOWSKY: \$8. 7:30 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400]. www.unionhallny.com.

MUSIC, KATELYN CLARK: With Ekmeles Vocal Ensemble. \$10. 7:30 pm. First Presbyterian Church [124 Henry St. between Clarke and Pierpont streets in Brooklyn Heights, (212) 203-7211]. www.musicatfirst-site.com.

THEATER, "HELLO DOLLY!": Presented by the Bishop Kearney High School Players. \$13 (\$10 for students and seniors). 7:30 pm. Bishop Kearney High School [2202 60th St. at Bay Parkway in Bensonhurst, (718) 236-6363]. www.bishopkearneyhs.org.

MUSIC, JON GIBSON AND NINA WINTHROP: \$15. 8 pm. Roulette [509 Atlantic Ave. between Third Avenue and Nevins Street in Downtown, (917) 267-0363]. www.roulette.org.

MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT: The Brooklyn Chamber Music Society presents works by Boccherini, Hindemith, Harbison and Copland. \$30. 8 pm. First Unitarian Church [48 Pierrepont St. at Monroe Place in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 858-0718]. www.brooklynchambermusicsociety.org.

SHUL CELEBRATES INSTALLATION OF A NEW SPIRITUAL LEADER: Free. 8 pm. Progressive Temple Beth Ahavath Shalom [1515 46th St. at 15th Avenue in Borough Park, (718) 436-5082]. www.ptbas.org.

MUSIC, SHONEN KNIFE, THE HARD NIPS, HEAVY CREAM: \$12 (\$10 in advance). 10 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510]. www.thebell-house-ny.com.

Sharp edges: Go see beloved Japanese pop-punk outfit Shonen Knife on Friday Nov. 18 at The Bell House

SAT, NOV. 19

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

TOUR, AN AFTERNOON WITH PAUL AUSTER: Author of "Sunset Park." \$20. 1 pm. Green-Wood Cemetery [Fifth Avenue and 25th Street in Sunset Park, (718) 768-7300]. www.green-wood.com.

PERFORMANCE

THEATER, "MADAME BUTTERFLY": Presented by Regina Opera Company. 3 pm. Regina Hall [1210 65th St. at 12th Avenue in Dyker Heights, (718) 259-2772]. www.reginaopera.org.

THEATER, "HELLO DOLLY!": Presented by the Bishop Kearney High School Players. \$13 (\$10 for students and seniors). 7:30 pm. Bishop Kearney High School [2202 60th Street at Bay Parkway in Bensonhurst, (718) 236-6363]. www.bishopkearneyhs.org.

MUSIC, IN THE SHADOWS: With Deborah Gladstein and Garth Stevenson. \$15. 8 pm. Roulette [509 Atlantic Ave. between Third Avenue and Nevins Street in Downtown, (917) 267-0363]. www.roulette.org.

THEATER, "A SIXTIES KIND OF LOVE": Presented by the Strivelli Players and the Ridge Repertory Company. \$20. 8 pm. Bay Ridge Jewish Center [405-81 St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Bay Ridge].

MUSIC, JOHN WESLEY HARDING, THE MINUS 5: \$15. 9 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510]. www.thebellhouse-ny.com.

OTHER

WORKSHOP, JOB TRAINING: Computer literacy and job readiness classes. Free. 10 am–1 pm. Prospect Park YMCA [357 Ninth St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768-7100]. www.ymcanyc.org.

READING, ARTIE BENNETT: Author

SUN, NOV. 20

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

NATURE WALK: Hunt for wild American Persimmons with "Wildman" Steve Brill. RSVP required. \$20 (\$10 children under 12). 11:45 am. Prospect Park [Grand Army Plaza entrance in Park Slope, (914) 835-2153]. www.wildmanstevebrill.com.

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC, BROOKLYN'S CHILI TAKE-DOWN: \$15. 2 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510]. www.thebell-house-ny.com.

THEATER, "A SIXTIES KIND OF LOVE": 2 pm. See Saturday, Nov. 19.

THEATER, "MADAME BUTTERFLY": 3 pm. See Saturday, Nov. 19.

MUSIC, TESSERA QUARTET: The Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music presents a great string quartet — with bassoon! \$20 (\$10 students). 3 pm. Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church [85 S. Oxford St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 855-3053]. www.brooklynfriends-of-chambermusic.org.

MUSIC, SUPERSUCKERS, NASHVILLE PUSSY: \$15. 8 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510]. www.thebell-house-ny.com.

OTHER

THE SECOND ANNUAL BAY RIDGE PIE SOCIAL: Benefits The Guild for Exceptional Children. \$5 for bakers / \$20 for eaters. 1 pm. The Art Room [8710 Third Ave. between 87th and 88th streets in Bay Ridge, (347) 560-6572]. theatroomkc.com/wordpress.

READING, "A SPY TELLS HIS SECRETS": Author and former KGB operative discusses his book. Free. 1:30 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch [Flatbush Ave. at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100]. See 9 DAYS on page 10

http://

Find lots more listings online at BrooklynPaper.com/Events

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Tickle me: Joe Hennes and Ryan Roe cozy up to Elmo. And next week, the duo will celebrate the Muppets at the Bell House.

A Muppet shindig

A Park Slope bar celebrates Henson’s creations

By Juliet Linderman
The Brooklyn Paper

The new star-studded Muppet movie is getting a ton of buzz, but you don’t have to wait until its holiday-season release to get your anthropomorphic animal fix. Head to Union Hall in Park Slope on Nov. 20 for the latest installment of monthly Muppet mash-up party, “The Muppet Vault,” where Henson-obsessed duo Joe Hennes and Ryan Roe screen rare, and often ancient, footage from the beloved series.

The theme of this month’s event is, aptly, “A Very Muppet Comeback,” and will feature a screening of little-known

EVENT

The Muppet Vault at Union Hall [702 Union St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], Nov. 20, 2 pm, \$8. For info, visit www.unionhallny.com.

1979 Muppet television special, “The Muppets Go Hollywood,” which follows the fuzzy felt-covered cast down the red carpet at the premiere of their first film, “The Muppet Movie.”

“What’s not to love about Muppets?” asked Hennes, clearly rhetorically. He and Roe launched “The Muppet Vault” program almost two years ago at the Bell House to pay homage to a childhood favor-

ite that has endured the test of time.

“Muppets are hilariously funny and incredibly inventive—and the fact that Muppets are so old means the people who loved them as kids now love them as adults,” said Hennes, who also co-writes the definitive Muppet fansite, Toughpigs.com “We cater to adult-aged fans.”

Yes, there are screenings, contests, trivia, prizes and sing-alongs—but there are also Muppet-themed cocktails that are definitely not for kids.

“There’s something that’s very fun about turning TV into a social party,” said Jerm Pollet, founder of Secret Formula Productions, who co-produces the show. “And this show, especially, is so mythological—the Muppets are gods of the universe.”

BAR SCRAWL

By Bill Roundy

The Breuckelen Distilling Co. offers tours on Saturday afternoons.

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Breuckelen Distilling Company [77 19th St. near Third Avenue in Sunset Park, (347) 725-4985]. Open Saturdays, noon–6 pm. For info, visit www.brkgin.com.

High on ‘Dry’

Goods shop has retro-chic charm

By Kate Briquete
The Brooklyn Paper

Where can you find 1950s pastry cutters, a mouthwash invented for Louis XV, or eardrops for dogs made by Italian nuns?

Dry Goods, a tiny general store and apothecary that opened this month on Atlantic Avenue, is filling your need for heirloom-quality gifts made from their original molds and formulas.

“These are classic, beautiful things you could pass down to your kids,” said shop owner and fashion designer Carla Brookoff. “They’re still being made in same factories that have been making them for generations.”

The shop near Hoyt Street has walls lined with old wooden cabinets filled with egg white soap from Belgium, durable American-made Thermoses by Stanley, and Pendleton wool blankets.

Named Dry Goods after the 18th-century term for textiles and non-perishables, the shop is curated based on treasures that Brookoff finds in her travels and at flea markets.

For instance, there’s the disposable gingham napkins on a roll that she picked up



Got the goods: Employee Stella St. Clair shows off the retro, old-fashioned wares at Dry Goods, a throwback shop on Atlantic Avenue.

in Paris, Swedish soaps she brought back from Amsterdam, and Tala-brand baking wares from England—her English mother-in-law gave her a Tala measuring cup from when she first got married.

Then there are items Brookoff has collected for years, including century-old cast-iron animals in the form of doorstops, banks and nutcrackers.

“They are for sale but they are hard to part with—I’m not going to lie to you,” Brookoff said.

New companies with retro-style packaging are also part of the nostalgic mix, with needles and notions from the

U.K.-based Merchant & Mills and Mayron’s Goods all-natural diaper cream from Pennsylvania.

“I’m always on the lookout for things you don’t have to hide away,” Brookoff said. “Living in New York, so much stuff has to be out on display because we don’t have room. We want you to find things that are beautiful and enrich your life and the tasks you have to do.”

Dry Goods [362 Atlantic Ave. between Hoyt and Bond streets in Boerum Hill, (718) 403-0090]. For info, visit www.drygoodsny.com or contact drygoodsny@gmail.com.

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Happy Drinksgiving!

Your guide to holiday hooch

By The Brooklyn Paper Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Bureau
The Brooklyn Paper

Whether you're spending the holidays solo, with family, or simply taking advantage of the fact that the city's emptier than the liquor cabinet after your estranged uncle came to town last year, chances are you're going to need a stiff drink—or five—come Turkey Day. Well, Brooklyn, be thankful: We've compiled a short-list of four seasonal boozy beverages to make it even easier for you to get lightly toasted this Thanksgiving. Drink it in!

The Port Of Call

A cocktail truly ideal for Thanksgiving time, this shaken elixir combines gin, ruby port, lemon, cinnamon bark syrup, a dash of aromatic bitters and cranberry preserve—all poured over ice—to create the perfect blend of sweet, tart, boozy and refreshing, with crisp and fresh notes of autumn.

Clover Club [210 Smith St. between Baltic and Butler streets in Cobble Hill, (718)855-7939]. Cost: \$12. For info visit www.cloverclubny.com.

The Headless Horseman

In the mood for something hot, spicy and a little bit more adventurous than your average mulled wine or spiked apple cider? Head for the Drink for a Headless Horseman, a stewed mix of Weller bourbon with pink peppercorns, maple syrup, fresh pumpkin juice, vanilla black tea, chicory, lemon juice and grapefruit juice. This hot cocktail will warm you to the core—and its citrus notes will surely ward off any signs of scurvy (the bar is, after all, a nautical-themed Williamsburg watering hole). If pumpkin and maple isn't your bag, try the Espolon Tequila-tinged Smoke on the Water, featuring Sandeman's Tawny Port, lapsang souchong smoked green tea syrup, lime juice, xocolatl mole bitters.

The Drink [228 Manhattan Ave. between Maujer and Grand streets in Williamsburg, (718) 782-8463].



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

With relish: Clover Club bartender Tom Macy with a Port Of Call,—his very own creation featuring cranberry relish.

Cost: \$5. For info, visit www.the-drinkbrooklyn.com.

Apples to Apples

Fans of classic hot cider will flock to Five Leaves in Williamsburg for this seasonal offering made with apple cider; Laird's Applejack brandy; cinnamon; cloves; and Avera, a li-

queur infused with herbs, citrus and caramel flavors. This steaming hot beverage will clear your sinuses, banish any lingering late-autumn colds, and make you feel like you're actually drinking a slice of warm apple pie—if it were extremely alcoholic.

Five Leaves [18 Bedford Ave. at N. 12th Street in Williamsburg, (718) 383-5345]. Cost: \$11. For info, visit www.fiveleavesny.com.

Post Road Pumpkin Ale

You can never go wrong with a nice frosty bottle of beer—especially when it's brewed right here in Brooklyn, and has seasonally-appropriate notes of pumpkin. Post Road Pumpkin Ale is brewed with pumpkin mash, and features a warm, biscuity malt center that goes perfectly with seasonal foods like turkey, pie, potatoes and root veggies. Drink up, because once November's over, you'll have to wait until next August this specialty brew to return!

Brooklyn Brewery [79 N. 11th St. between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 486-7422]. Friday happy hour, 6–11 pm. For info, visit www.brooklynbrewery.com.

Oh his pasta

Another footnight of food flashes



Aliens land in Williamsburg, Montague Street gets pasta, Prospect Heights gets liquored up, and the road to Morocco veers out of Park Slope in this week's serving of saucy gossip:

What's in a name? OK, so maybe the name Oh, My Pasta! doesn't inspire confidence—but then down a bowl or two of Marco Lasala's fresher-than-fresh papardelle ai funghi or orecchiette e cime di rape (that's Puglian for awesome) and you won't care what monicker is on the Montague Street awning. Price points are a bit high, but Lasala is trying to invent a whole new way of serving pasta: fancy machines from Italy churn out the fresh noodles hourly—and then you eat them.

Smooth operator: Greg Yerman, owner of the Burrito Bar in Prospect Heights, sure knows how to work a community board. According to the Prospect Heights Patch, he pulled out all the stops during a recent liquor license hearing for M. Helen Kitchen, his upcoming farm-to-table restaurant on the corner of Carlton and Park Places. "In the last six years, we've won three commendations from the borough for beautifying our sidewalk (at Burrito Bar). We police and secure the area," he said. As a clincher, he added that he and his wife are expecting twins in January—convincing the board that he'll most assuredly need a full bar to go along with the grass-fed beef burgers and organic egg breakfasts at M. Helen.

Gwynnett to win it: Here's a new 'Billyburg boite with plenty of pedigree—Gwynnett Street (on Graham Avenue, just to be confusing), is a market-driven collaboration from the former wine director of Esca and a chef from wd-50. The rustic American



Community Newspaper Group / Julie Rosenberg

Mr. Noodle: Marco Lasala shows off the Italian pasta maker that forms the core of his new restaurant, Oh My Pasta! (Ignore the name,—the food is great.)

resto features the requisite line-up of small and large plates, but with decidedly unfamiliar flavor combos—think fresh cheese dumplings with carrots, grape must and smoked macadamia nuts, and wild salmon with kohlrabi, quince mustard and black barley.

Un poquito de Txikito: Ever wondered what Judeo-Spanish food tastes like? Grub Street reports that La Vara, the first Brooklyn venture from the owners of Txikito and El Quinto Pino in Chelsea, will take its influences from the Moorish and Jewish legacies in Spanish cuisine. Challah and chorizo? Paella and potato pancakes? Whatever it means, expect some interesting eats to come out of the space on Clinton Street near Cobble Hill Park this winter.

Unidentified flying restaurant: Hipsters beware; the Martians have landed on Grand Street! You'd have to

live light years away to miss newcomer Alien Café's glaring neon signage, although the edible offerings are far from extraterrestrial (Blue Bottle coffee, chicken sandwiches, veggie burgers, soup). You'd also have to be pre-programmed not to smile at the little Play-Doh aliens tucked into niches on the exposed brick walls. They come in peace!

BYO Buttermilk: What's better than the duck meatloaf at Buttermilk Channel? Free corkage Tuesdays at Buttermilk Channel! Bococaland shared an open letter from owner Doug Crowell, inviting guests to bring over a wine of their choice, which will be served "in our finest stemware and with elegant flair," sans pricey restaurant mark-ups. He suggests a "first growth Bordeaux" or that "Grand Cru Chablis behind the milk in your fridge," so refrain from smuggling in a Two Buck Chuck from the local Trader Joes.

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PARENT

To be a great dad, fail sometimes

Sometimes apologizing to my daughters in easy, almost meaningless. “I’m sorry we’re out of orange juice. Now eat your breakfast.” The words are virtually empty and function as grease to keep us moving on schedule or slide over a minor disappointment. “I’m sorry your notebook got all messed up. We can get a new

one tomorrow.” There are other times, though, when genuine repentance is called for but I’m silent. My oldest daughter was recently upset with me for something I’d written about her. Rather than listen to her feelings, I tried to convince her she was wrong, that what I’d done was correct and justified, that she was being oversensitive. This accomplished nothing except to escalate the situation and push us towards open conflict.


Why couldn’t I hear what she was trying to tell me, that she felt embarrassed and hurt? Pride? Ego? Self-importance? All of the above? Yes. There’s a lot of self-esteem wrapped up in being a dad. I want to be a great father, sensitive, wise, perfect in every way. I want to be a strong dad, wielding authority judiciously and with benevolence. Of course, sometimes I get it wrong. At the best of times, apologizing can be hard to do. Is this a guy thing? Can I blame my defensiveness on that pesky “Y” chromosome? Is my inability to spit out my mea culpa somehow tied to my masculinity? It’d be nice to think so, but when it comes to my kids, I really believe it’s about being a parent.

Apologizing is an acknowledgement, clearly and in all capital letters, that I have failed at something, screwed up, that I’m not perfect. One good defense is to blame someone else for my shortcomings. I remember a moment in the car, a few years ago, my younger daughter and I started arguing when I asked her to do something—I can’t even remember what it was about. I got frustrated and felt trapped and tense and I just needed her to cooperate. Well, I lost it. I really screamed at her and she looked at me, frightened, and started to cry. The first words out of my mouth were, “I’m sorry, but you were making me...” That was no apology, I was

trying to blame her for my behavior.

I could see, looking at her, that I was diminished in her eyes and I felt so, so small.

The irony is that if I worry too much about being Superdad then my cape is more



The Dad

By Scott Sager

likely to get dirty and torn. By setting aside my ego, really listening to my daughters,

admitting my mistakes, I’m actually a better parent. A fallible father, to be sure, but more genuine, honest and human.

Back in that car, I was able to pull over, turn to my daughter and say I was sorry for yelling at her, that I was wrong for what I did. And with my older daughter last week, I was able to catch

myself before I really blew it and apologize for what I’d written and how it had made her feel. Both my girls have seen me humbled, imperfect and that’s alright. Really, the important lesson is that we all screw up.

Take responsibility and ask for forgiveness, because we’re all human, even dads.

RATNER...

Continued from page 1

“community benefits agreement,” and again as a verbal promise at a meeting held by Brooklyn United for Innovative Local Development.

Ratner spokesman Joe DePlasco said that there are 779 people working on the Barclays Center right now.

Roughly 22 percent of that total are workers from Brooklyn. None came from

the job-training program, plaintiffs charge.

DePlasco denied that Ratner executives ever promised participants in the training program jobs or so-called “union cards.”

“Forest City Ratner did not promise union cards, nor was it ever in a position to [do so],” DePlasco said in an e-mail.

All workers on the project belong to labor unions, an-

other Ratner promise.

The lawsuit highlights the growing tension between the developer, who relied on support from organized labor to win approval for a project that he said would create 1,500 construction jobs per year over its 10-year buildout, and Atlantic Yards opponents, who argued that Ratner’s promises were false.

“This was the biggest bait-and-switch in the history of Brooklyn,” said Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Fort Greene).

Even the job training program itself — run by Ratner’s allies at BUILD — was a lie, the suit claims.

Several plaintiffs said they quit their jobs to enroll in the course, but instead of earning union memberships, they spent most of the time doing basic demolition work — without pay — on a construction site in Staten Island.

“We wound up with nothing,” said Clarence Stewart, who left his job to take the course. “Somebody has to answer for this.”

CAT...

Continued from page 1

BeeBop, a feisty feral tom who loves bacon, went missing on June 28 after a mover left the door open. A few days later, he was found at the Heights Players community theater on Willow Place. A member of the troupe kept the cat there for several days, but before Sheehan could retrieve her beloved, someone else freed the cat so that he wouldn’t urinate on the costumes.

Ever since, Sheehan has tirelessly posted “Missing” ads on Craigslist for her neutered pet, who is black with a white belly and a white chin with a black nose and black spot on the right side of his face.

She has also consulted with pet psychics and enlisted locals to circulate fliers — many of which were mysteriously torn down.

Sheehan and her search team believes that BeeBop is the next Jack the Cat, the mouser that became an inter-

national celebrity after disappearing at the airport, setting off a two-month search that involved airline staff, thousands of Facebook fans, psychics and a pet detective.

The cat was successfully retrieved.

In Sheehan’s case, the prognosticators are optimistic about the 2-year-old tabby, saying he is still in the area.

“I don’t want to have a thousand crazy cat ladies walking around Brooklyn Heights screaming for him, but people want to keep the momentum going,” Sheehan said.

The psychic told Sheehan that BeeBop was likely being cared for by a local family, and has divulged several possible addresses. In each case, Sheehan’s cat-loving friends have showed up unannounced at the addresses, causing some neighbors to misinterpret all the concern about BeeBop as some kind of weird cat-thefting ring.

“It’s amazing to have so much effort in the neighborhood for one cat,” said Heights

resident Mary Reventlow. “He’s around — we just have to persevere.”

Dorothy Sherman, a member of the Brooklyn Bridge Animal Welfare Coalition, said that male cats tend to wander in a 10-block radius.

She plans to visit a local construction site where several people have sighted a black cat, bringing her secret weapons for trapping: sardines and fried chicken.

“I’ve seen several instances where the people do recover animals four months later,” Sherman said. “The problem is that Cathy has to depend on the kindness of strangers to help her.”

Anyone with information on BeeBop should contact Sheehan at (917) 837-6899 or visit www.facebook.com/whereisbeebeop. There’s a \$325 reward for his safe return — no questions asked.

DOG...

Continued from page 1

your pet.” X-rays revealed that Tali’s leg was broken in two places. The vet said that \$3,000 in surgery might be needed. The first vet visit alone cost the Prospect Lefferts Gardens resident \$720.

Later, Bednarska posted fliers inside the park, as well as an ad on Craigslist recounting the dog-on-dog crime.

Bednarska said she’s considering a lawsuit if the owner is found but does not offer any money.

She might have a case. “Pets are property, and like cars, they are subject to the control and liability of their owners,” said civil attorney Morgan Smith.

Contact Kasia Bednarska at (917) 288-1164 with any information about the doggie debacle.



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NAKED...

Continued from page 1

“She asked the cashier, ‘Everything is for free?’” said the restaurant’s owner, Dajo Zhao.

Zhao said that the cashier explained that not everything was free — but that only enraged the woman, who slammed her fingers down on the menu, screaming, “Free, free, free, free!”

Attempts to calm the woman failed. And that’s when the lo mein hit the fan — literally.

The unhinged woman began throwing everything she could see, screaming with rage and wildly flailing at any object in her path.

Hermanic tornado moved to the back of the restaurant, where she pushed over equipment, threw food, and even punched a chef.

“This old lady was trashing the place,” said Noreen Monier, who owns Tops Restaurant & Bar Supply on Third Avenue between 80th and 81st streets. “I told her to stop and she threw a watermelon at me. She had superhuman strength. She said, ‘I’ll stop when I’m good and ready.’”

After destroying the tiny take-out joint, the woman then ran into the middle of Third Avenue and took off



her clothes.

“She was prancing around,” said a witness, who would only be identified as Jessica. “At first it was funny, but then it got scary.”

The scene drew roughly 300 onlookers, who snapped pictures and took video of the insanity. Some onlookers heckled the woman, which only seemed to fuel this nude bomb.

At one point, she even laid down on the hood of a black convertible, whose driver didn’t know what to do.

“You just never seen nothing like this. She’s naked as the day she was born, spread eagle on the car,” said Michael Clancy, who was walking his dog when the woman began to strip.

The still-naked woman made her way back into the restaurant, where she began chuckling Snapple bottles and destroying anything she hadn’t already devastated. This is the part that was captured so well on YouTube, though the website removed the video on Tuesday (and our friends at BrooklynDaily.com didn’t have the guts to print the pictures uncensored).

“She’s picking up the phones, answering calls and throwing money,” said



A woman took off all of her clothes in the middle of Third Avenue (left) after trashing a Chinese restaurant in a bizarre rampage last Thursday. (Above) Still nude, she returned to damage the restaurant some more, cops said.

LAKE...

Continued from page 1

— oxygen-producing organisms ranging from single-celled bacteria to more-sophisticated life forms such as seaweed. But too much of even a good thing, or even a little toxic cyanobacteria, can cut off oxygen to aquatic life, kill fish and poison waterfowl.

Algae can also cause humans skin rashes and respiratory problems, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Park Department spokeswoman Vickie Karp said that activists were “making a tempest out of a teapot,” though later admitted that agency biologists will test the bacteria to determine if it’s harmful. For now,

though, she said there’s no reason for alarm.

“It’s just scum in a pond,” she said. “It’s natural.”

Prospect Park Alliance spokesman Paul Nelson added the group has been monitoring levels of the slime for years. “It is not a significant threat to public safety at this point,” he said. “Nature is not always pretty and clean and neat.”

Park-goers aren’t taking any chances.

Satdarshan Khalsa, whose Beagle-mix tried to hop in the water on Monday, said he now has a new rule for his pup.

“She’s not jumping in the lake until we get a definitive answer [from the city],” he said. “We’ll stay away from the water.”

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TIRES...

Continued from page 1

went to pick up her rental, a brand new Honda Accord she left on 10th Avenue near 17th Street the night before, she found it resting on cinder blocks.

Witnesses say the car was fine at around sunrise.

“I saw the car untouched at about 6 am,” 10th Avenue resident Gus Santos said. “[The theft] must have happened around 7 am.”

The same morning, a motorist discovered his Range Rover parked on Pierrepont Place between Montague and Pierrepont streets in Brooklyn Heights teetering on a milk crate. A thief had removed two of the four tires — leaving the lug nuts behind in a little pile.

Other recent tire thefts include:

- A Honda CRV parked on Henry Street near Joralemon Street over the weekend.
- A Honda CRV left on DeGraw Street near Hicks Street on Oct. 19.
- A 2010 Nissan Maxima parked on Sackett Street between Hoyt and Smith streets on Oct. 22.

Brownstone Brooklyn

are high on thieves’ list, as their tires and rims are hot commodities that people are willing to pay top dollar for: a quick check on Ebay shows that the cost of a set ranges between \$1,100 and \$1,800.

The sight of cars left tireless atop cinder blocks or milk crates, a common occurrence in the 1970s and ’80s, is taking today’s Brooklynites by surprise.

“This is something I never thought I’d see in Windsor Terrace,” said Hirsch, who the thieves left flat Thursday morning. “I guess this is the sign of the economic times.”

Anyone with information regarding these tire thefts is urged to contact the NYPD CrimeStoppers hotline at (800) 577-7477. All calls will be kept confidential.

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ART...

Continued from page 1

rage at indifference to human suffering during the early years of the AIDS crisis,” said museum spokeswoman Sally Williams. “We strongly encourage anyone who has concerns about ‘Hide/Seek’ to visit the museum and view it in person.”

Last week, Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio sent a letter to the museum, urging it to pull the video from its exhibition because of its crucifixion imagery — just as the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery did when the exhibit was presented in Washington last year.

Others, including Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis (R–Bay Ridge) and Rep. Michael Grimm (R–Bay Ridge), joined the bishop’s call for censoring the artwork.

But Wojnarowicz’s allies fought back, slamming the church for taking an “incendiary, radical view” and attempting to intimidate the museum.

“This is an important museum exhibition about the history of gay artists and American portraiture, and to focus on this tiny little piece taken out of context is misguided,” said Wendy Olsoff, owner of the PPOW Gallery, which represents Wojnarowicz’s estate. “The [video] is not about religion, it’s about homosexuality — and the church needs to come to terms with that.”

A parade of public officials is also defending the museum and its exhibition — including Borough President Markowitz and Mayor Bloomberg, whose office said the museum’s freedoms should be honored above all else.

“New York is the freest city in the freest country in the world, which is why those who are upset by this exhibit have every right to speak their mind,” said Bloomberg spokeswoman Julie Wood.

“Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture” at the Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], opens on Nov. 18. Museum is closed Monday and Tuesday. For info, visit www.brooklyn-museum.org.



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DIVORCE SUMMONS ON AMENDED PETITION. NOTICE TO REPLY. ROBERT MARTIN. You are being sued. Petitioner's name is: MAD-LIN A. KING 3129 ELM-QUIST CT. MARTINEZ, CA 94553. NUMBER: D11-00769. You have 30 calendar days after this Summons and Petition are served on you to file a Response (form FL-120 or FL-123) with the SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA-COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA 751 PINE ST. P.O. BOX 911 MARTINEZ, CA 94553 and have a copy served on the petitioner. A letter or phone call will not protect you. If you do not file your Response on time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage. NOTE: If a judgment or support order is entered, the court may order you to pay all or part of the fees and costs that the court waived for yourself or for the other party. If this happens, the party ordered to pay fees shall be given notice and an opportunity to request a hearing to set aside the order to pay waived court fees. Date: Aug 29, 2011 Clerk, by M. OLSON, Deputy

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 11/15/2011, bearing Index Number NC-001132-11/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) Taicha (Middle) India (Last) Faublas. My present name is (First) Taisha (Middle) India (Last) Faublas AKA Taicha I. Faublas. My present address is 1012 Ocean Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11201-7468. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is June 05, 1984.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 11/15/2011, bearing Index Number NC-001129-11/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) June (Middle) Patricia (Last) Michael. My present name is (First)

June (Middle) Patricia (Last) Michael AKA June P. Michael-Wray AKA June Wray FKA June Patricia Huggins. My present address is 636 Brooklyn Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11203. My place of birth is Guyana. My date of birth is September 25, 1941.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 11/16/2011, bearing Index Number NC-001133-11/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) Andre (Middle) Anthony Ho-Lin (Last) Awon. My present name is (First) Andre (Middle) Anthony Ho-Lin Collington (Last) Awon aka Andre Anthony Ho-Lin Awon aka Andre A. Awon aka Andre A. Collington-Awon aka Andre Awon. My present address is 475 Carlton Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11238. My place of birth is Virginia Beach, Virginia. My date of birth is January 28, 1993.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 11/15/2011,

bearing Index Number NC-001131-11/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) Etel (Middle) Dina (Last) Vegh. My present name is (First) Etty (Last) Vegh (infant). My present address is 971 East 14th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11230. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is October 10, 2011.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 11/14/2011, bearing Index Number NC-001122-11/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) Evelyn (Last) Perez. My present name is (First) Evenilda (Last) Montalvo Rodriguez AKA Evenilda Montalvo, AKA Evelyn Perez. My present address is 743 Crawford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11223. My place of birth is Cabo Rojo, P.R. My date of birth is October 18, 1942.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 11/04/2011, bearing Index Number NC-001099-11/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) Harutyun (Middle) Artashes (Last) Harutyunyan. My present name is (First) Harutyun (Middle) Artashesovitch (Last) Harutyunyan AKA Arutiun Arutiunian AKA Arutiun Arutiunyan. My present address is 442 15th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215. My place of birth is Moscow, Russia. My date of birth is September 16, 1993.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 11/15/2011, bearing Index Number NC-001130-11/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) Shawn (Middle) Valentine (Last) Fox. My present name is (First) Shawn (Middle) Nathan

(Last) Szynecki. My present address is 243 Himrod Street, Brooklyn, NY 11237. My place of birth is Clearfield, PA. My date of birth is October 14, 1984.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 11/15/2011, bearing Index Number NC-001125-11/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) Pharrell (Middle) French (Last) Carter. My present name is (First) Ronald (Middle) Junior (Last) Bienaime AKA Ronald Junior Bien-Aime. My present address is 743 Rogers Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11226-2516. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is January 30, 1990.

SUMMONS AND NOTICE INDEX No. 2010-0914 STATE OF NEW YORK SUPREME COURT ONONDAGA COUNTY AMERICAN TAX FUNDING, LLC, Plaintiff, vs. CHAYA FRIEDMAN, POP 'N' EAT, LLC; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF

TAXATION AND FINANCE; THE CITY OF SYRACUSE AND "John Doe #1" THROUGH "JOHN DOE #100", Defendants, TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in the above-entitled foreclosure action, and to serve a copy of your answer on the plaintiff's attorney within thirty (30) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner than by personal service within the State. The United States of America, if designated as a defendant in this action, may answer or appear within sixty (60) days of service hereof. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. Onondaga County is designated as the place of trial. The basis of venue is the location of the premises. Dated: June 10, 2011 TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: The foregoing summons is

served upon you by publication, pursuant to an Order of Honorable Deborah H. Karalunas, a Justice of the Supreme Court, dated October 12, 2011, and filed with supporting papers in the Onondaga County Clerk's Office. This is an action to foreclose a tax lien covering the property known as 1606 Spring Street, City of Syracuse, New York and being a parcel of land designated as Tax Account No. 002-06-22.0. The relief sought is the sale of the subject property at public auction in satisfaction of the tax lien. In case of your failure to appear, judgment may be taken against you in the sum of \$1,853.40, together with interest, costs, disbursements and attorney's fees of this action, and directing the public sale of the property. Richard J. Evans, Jr. PHILLIPS LYTLE LLP Attorney for Plaintiff American Tax Funding, LLC Office and Post Office Address 1400 First Federal Plaza Rochester, New York 14614 Tel. No. (585)238-2000

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